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# Tax plan loses momentum

## Support fades for proposal to boost local aid

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PROVIDENCE — Despite pressure from both municipal leaders and unions to add money to the local-aid pot before they close up shop for the year, lawmakers yesterday appeared poised to kill a \$41-million package of eleventh-hour tax-and-fee increases.

By early evening, the anticipated introduction of legislation allowing round-the-clock gambling at the state's two slot parlors on weekends and holiday eves had also evaporated.

But in a session that was still going after 1 a.m. today, legislative committees approved — and lawmakers passed — hundreds of bills in their race to possible adjournment, including a bill to allow people

### Status of major bills

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with disabilities, on public boards, to call in their votes by phone and another to ban forced overtime for nurses. Both

were headed to the governor's desk.

Previously unseen bills surfaced, including one that would levy a new tax on the health-care bills paid by private insurers that, depending on who you talk to, could raise the health-insurance rates of the insured to create a new pool of money to help the uninsured. Another was aimed at providing an alternative to a heavily criticized feature of the new state budget: the sentencing of 17-year-old criminals to the state prison to save money, because the Training School is more expensive. At midnight, their fate was still un-

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